

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the indication of allowable subject matter.

This communication is a full and timely response to the aforementioned non-final Office Action dated February 22, 2006. Claims 24 – 38 and 45 – 47 are cancelled, claims 1, 2 and 15 have been amended, and new claims 48 and 49 are added.

Objections to Drawings

The drawings are objected to as allegedly not showing “at least two opposing magnetic pole pieces located at a certain distance from each other and which delimit an imaging region; wherein the pole pieces are formed by at least one massive layer of a magnetically permeable material, and at least one layer of magnetically permeable material comprising a pack of superimposed sheets or foils, electrically insulated from each other”. However, applicants submit that an exemplary embodiment of that claimed subject matter is shown at least in Figures 19 and 20, which shows at least two opposing magnetic pole pieces **1** located at a certain distance from each other and which delimit an imaging region (between the pole pieces); wherein the pole pieces are formed by at least one massive layer of a magnetically permeable material **201**, and at least one layer of magnetically permeable material comprising a pack of superimposed sheets or foils **301**, electrically insulated from each other. Although a reference number has not been assigned to whatever material insulates the sheets from each other, the figures

clearly show a line between each sheet and the specification indicates that such sheets are insulated from each other.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections to the drawings.

Also submitted herewith is a replacement sheet for Figures 16 and 18. The replacement sheet provides English terms for text therein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Kinanen* (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,251). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As now amended, claim 1 recites that the cuts are arranged over the surface of the sheet or foil such that the cuts of the sheet or foil are offset and not coincident with respect to the cuts of an adjacent sheet or foil, when the adjacent sheet is laid over the previous sheet in an overturned position, with the first face turned toward the first face of the first sheet or with the second face of said adjacent sheet turned toward the second face of the first sheet, regardless of the relative angular orientation of the sheets with respect to each other. Although claim 1 was patentable over the cited prior art, even without the amended language, the amended version of claim 1 is also patentable. Specifically, in *Kinanen*, the relative angular orientation of the sheets is important in order to ensure that the slots in one sheet are not coincident with slots in an adjacent sheet. Because of the structure of the present invention, when one of the sheets is overturned, the slots are not coincident regardless of the relative angular orientation of the sheets. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of amended claim 1.

New claim 48 is identical to original claim 1. New claim 48 requires that the cuts are arranged over the surface of the sheet or foil and have a width and length and are so arranged on each sheet, so that the cuts of a sheet or foil are offset and not coincident with respect to the cuts of an adjacent sheet or foil, when the adjacent sheet is laid over the previous sheet in an overturned position, with the first face turned toward the first face of the first sheet or with the second face of said adjacent sheet turned toward the second face of the first sheet.

The Kinanen reference does not teach or suggest laying one sheet on an adjacent sheet in an overturned position so that the cuts of a sheet or foil are offset and not coincident with respect to the cuts of an adjacent sheet. Kinanen maintains the not coincident structure by changing the relative orientation of the sheets, not by overturning an adjacent sheet.

New claim 49 is similar to original claim 1, except that it recites that wherein at least two of the sheets or foils are substantially identical to each other and are arranged next to each other with the first face of one sheet or foil turned toward the first face of the adjacent sheet or foil or with the second face of said adjacent sheet turned toward the second face of the first sheet. Accordingly, claim 49 is also clearly patentable over the applied art.

Claim 42 depends from claim 1. By virtue of this dependency, Applicants submit that claim 42 is allowable for at least the same reasons given above with regard to claim 1. In addition, Applicants submit that this claim is further distinguishable over Kinanen by the additional elements recited therein. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 1 and 42 under 35 U.S.C.

§102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed, and that new claims 48 and 49 be found allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-7, 10, 39, 43, and 44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection and submit that those claims are also patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as the features recited in each claim.

Claims 8, 9, 11 – 23, 40, and 41 were withdrawn as being directed to nonelected subject matter. However, all of those claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and allow those claims.

Conclusion

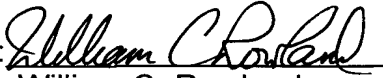
Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1 – 23, 39 – 44, and 48 – 49 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can

be placed in even better form, Applicants request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620